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the Tigris, and he sees the resurrection of this region near at hand in the progress of the Bagdad Railway.

In ancient days there were two great systems of irrigation starting from above the final rapids of the Tigris—the Nahrwân system on the left bank, and that now known as the Dijeil on the right. In those days the Tigris was in its old bed, and the ancient Opis on its left bank bore to the delta of the river much the same relation that Cairo bears to the delta of the Nile.

These systems were magnificent, and the Nahrwân alone, when carrying its full supply, must have been capable of crippling the Tigris. Sir William declares that, for magnitude, the Nahrwân surpassed any Egyptian or Indian canal. The ruin that came upon the prosperous Chaldea was caused by the change in the course of the Tigris. With the completion of the Bagdad Railway will come the restoration of the canals and the creation of another Egypt.

Appendix A gives the temperature, wind velocity and direction, and rainfall at Bagdad for 1888, 1894, 1899–1902. The mean annual temperature ranges from 71.4 (Fahr.) in 1888 to 74.5 in 1901. The highest wind velocity is 10 miles per hour in February, 1888 and 1894, and the yearly mean for four years is three miles an hour. The rainfall was 8.4 in. in 1888, 22.2 in 1894, 3.6 in 1899, 5.7 in 1900, and 1.5 in 1901.

Sir William Willcocks is no prophet of evil. His vision of Egypt Fifty Years Hence reads like a description of the Golden Age with modern improvements, and among these two statues, one of Cecil Rhodes on the Equator, the other of Mr. Cope Whitehouse on the top of the Mesaigêga cliff contemplating the inland lake of 600 square kilometres, which will be one of the pleasure resorts of Europe.

The plates accompanying this interesting pamphlet admirably illustrate the story of irrigation on the Tigris.

*Toscanelli and Columbus. Letters to Sir Clements R. Markham and to C. Raymond Beazley. With Introductory Note and Bibliography of this Controversy. London, 1903.—Toscanelli and Columbus. A Letter from Sir Clements R. Markham, K.C.B., and a Reply from Mr. Henry Vignaud. London, 1903.—La Route des Indes et les Indications que Toscanelli aurait fournies à Colomb. Lettre au Dr. Jules Mees, de Gand, qui pourra intéresser le Dr. Sophus Ruge, de Dresde, par Henry Vignaud, etc. Paris, 1903.*

In these three pamphlets Mr. Vignaud reaffirms his convictions

on the subject of the Toscanelli letters and defends his position with ingenuity worthy of a better cause.

It is his misfortune to advocate a theory which must always remain, so to speak, in the clouds and beyond the reach of proof.

In his *Bibliography* in the first pamphlet he enumerates thirty papers and publications (exclusive of ninety-two minor notices) called forth in various countries in the past two years by the communications made by himself and M. de la Rosa to the Congress of Americanists in 1900, and by Mr. Vignaud's book on *Toscanelli and Columbus*. Most of these publications are favourable to the theory of the Columbus forgeries—a natural result in the case of every attempt to belittle a famous name. The spirit of the man who voted for the banishment of Aristides works in nine men out of ten; but the tenth man is not always silent, and for this reason Mr. Vignaud finds himself engaged in a controversy which he sustains with vigour, if not always with good taste. He says, for instance, on the second page of his *Bibliography*, that he made a *scorching reply* to a criticism by Signor Uzielli, who, it may be hoped, was provided with a pair of tongs. Again, Dr. Sophus Ruge is told on page 26 of *La Route des Indes* that he has but a slight acquaintance with the principles of historical criticism, and that by his intellectual culture, by the direction of his studies, and by the cast of his mind, he is incapacitated for appreciating the Portuguese and Spanish atmosphere, in which one must feel perfectly at home if he is to write anything that shall not be mere repetition about Columbus.

We cannot all do all things, and Mr. Vignaud seems to expect too much of those who are less happily endowed than himself.

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## ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

JULY—OCTOBER, 1903.

### BY PURCHASE.

ANCHIETA, JOSEPH DE.—*Arte de Grammatica da Lingua mais usada na Costa do Brasil*. Novamente dado á Luz por Julio Platzmann. Lipsia, B. G. Teubner, 1874. 8vo.

ARKELL-HARDWICK, A.—*An Ivory Trader in North Kenia*. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1903. 8vo.

ASENSIO, VICENTE LLORENS.—*La Primera Vuelta al Mundo: Relación documentada del viaje de Hernando de Magallanes y Juan Sebastián del Cano, 1519-1522*. Sevilla, Imp. de la "Guía Comercial," 1903. 16mo.